

# **INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS**

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## **United States Department of Agriculture**

Release - Immediate

Washington, D. C., December 20, 1937

### **LEAFLET TELLS HOW TO CONTROL COYOTES DURING DENNING SEASON**

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Coyotes are particularly destructive on open sheep ranges in spring, as they then need extra food for themselves and their young. Their preying upon lambing bands of sheep can be checked, however, by den hunting, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Successful methods employed in finding the dens are explained in a new Leaflet 132, "Den Hunting as a Means of Coyote Control", recently issued by the Department. It was prepared by Stanley P. Young and Harold W. Dobyns, of the Bureau of Biological Survey, both of whom have had wide experience in controlling predators.

Some coyotes, the leaflet points out, show great cunning in refraining from killing lambs near their dens and will pass by a band of sheep that is herded right over their den only to raid another several miles distant. Contrary to popular belief, the male coyote is as destructive as the female, as investigations by the Biological Survey of fresh kills at lambing time have shown that tracks of males are more in evidence than those of females. Under normal conditions a pair of adult coyotes is found to every den unless one parent has been killed. If this happens to be a female and the pups are young, they die. If they are old enough to eat meat, the male parent cares for them.

Stockmen and others confronted with coyote control problems may obtain copies of Leaflet 132, "Den Hunting as a Means of Coyote Control" from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at 5 cents each.

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